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A COPY OF A
Letter from the Earle of
ESSEX.
By Order of the Pretended
Houses of PARLIAMENT,
TO PRINCE
RUPERT:
WITH
HIS HIGHNESSE
ANSWER THEREUNTO.

OXFORD,
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the University, 1645.

SECRET

THIS MESSAGE

IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/1/01 BY 1043

REASON: 25X(1)1



For his Highnesse PRINCE RUPERT
GENERALL.

SIR,

THE two Houses of Parliament have received Information, that, because the Committee at Shrewsbury caused Thirteen Irish Rebels, taken in Hostility against the Parliament, to suffer Death, according to an Ordinance of Parliament herewith sent, Therefore by your expresse Commands, Thirteene English Protestants who had Quarter given them by your Officers that took them Prisoners, were notwithstanding murdered upon coole blood, and that you have resolved so proceed in the same manner for the future. A Relation and Resolution so strange, that the truth thereof might justly be suspected, were it not verified by letters from that Committee of the 24th of March last, to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and by a Letter of the 23. of March, sent to the same Committee by your direction, and subscribed by one Ralph Goodwin your Secretary, (as is informed) which doth own & avow the Fact. And therefore the two Houses of Parliament, being deeply affected with such cruell Massacres committed upon their Protestant Brethren, whose Lives they value as their owne, have commanded me to acquaint your Highnesse, that it is evident by undoubted Proofs, that the Rebels of Ireland (what ever they pretended to some on this side the Sea) did really intend by that odious Rebellion, to wrest that Kingdom for ever, from the Crowne of England, to the utter disherison of the King & His Posterity; And to extirpate the English Nation and Protestant Religion, and for that purpose have solicited by their Agents, the bringing over of Powerfull Aydes from Forraigne Parts, to assist them in this their intended Conquest; And have set up the Spanish Colours publicly, both at Wexford, and Gallway; Have caused their Captaines, Officers

and others, to make Oath before their Ecclesiastical Clergy, That they
 should not suffer any English, or Protestant, to live in that Kingdom.
 That they prosecuted this horrid designe, by murdering, hanging,
 drowning, burning * alive, and starving within few Months, in
 one Province, one hundred fifty four Thousand of harmless British
 Protestants, Men, Women, and Children, without distinction of
 Age or Sexe, without any provocation given, but living securely
 by them in a full and settled Peace. That the King first by Procla-
 mation attested by His own Royall Signature, and Privy Seale,
 hath Proclaimed them Traytors and Rebels; and since that time,
 both King and Parliament, by foure severall Acts of Parliament,
 have declared and styled them in the same manner; And further
 the Majesty by Act of Parliament, hath consented, That all Par-
 dons granted to them or any of them, before Attainder, shall be
 void. Now that such bloody, barbarous Miscreants, so odious
 both to God and men, so obnoxious to Law and Justice, (even by
 the Judgment of both sides) coming out of Ireland, (where they
 neither did give nor receive Quarter) to burne and lay wast this
 Kingdom, as they have done that should after all this, be admitted
 to receive Quarter here; and consequently be made equal in Ex-
 change with the English Nation, and Protestants; The Lords and
 Commons of the Parliament of England, cannot with Religion,
 Honour, or Justice, in any sort consent unto it. And have com-
 manded me to let your Highnesse, and all other Commanders on
 that side know, That if hereafter, upon executing the Irish Rebels,
 in pursuance of that just Ordinance, any unjust Pretext shall be
 made, to murder in coole blood any Officer, Souldier, or Seaman,
 in the service of the Parliament; That the two Houses have resolu-
 ed, and do hereby declare, that for every Officer, Souldier, and
 Seaman so causelessly massacred; they shall and must (though with
 deep sorrow and reluctancy) cause so many of the Prisoners re-
 maining in their Power, to be put to Death in the same manner.
 And therefore do earnestly desire your Highnesse, and all other your
 inferiour Commanders, to forbear by such prodigious Cruelty, to
 embase the value of the English Nation, which they are confident
 will be resentted with indignation, even by those English Protest-
 ants, who are for the present, deceived into Armes against the Pro-
 testants

shall increase, as well as Quarters and casual exchange as before, and for whom they daily pray. That Almighty God would open their eyes, and reduce them into the right way. Sir, this being all I have in Command, I take my leave, and remaine

Westminster the 4th
of April, 1645.

Your humble Servant
ESSEX.

The Copy of the Order mentioned in the
foregoing Letter.

Die Iovis, 24. Octob. 1644.

THe Lords and Commons assembled in the Parliament of England, doe declare, That no Quarter shall be given hereafter, to any Irish-man, nor to any Papists whatsoever, borne in Ireland, which shall be taken in Hostility against the Parliament, either upon the Sea, or within this Kingdom, or Dominion of Wales; And therefore doe Order and Ordaine, That the Lord Generall, Lord Admirall, and all other Officers and Commanders, both by Sea and Land, shall except all Irish-men and all Papists borne in Ireland, out of all Capitulations, Agreements and Compositions, hereafter to be made with the Enemy; And shall upon the taking of every such Irish-man, or Papist borne in Ireland, as aforesaid, forthwith put every such Person to death. And is further ordered and Ordained, That the Lord Generall, Lord Admirall, and the Committees of the severall Counties, doe give speedy Notice hereof to all subordinate Officers and Commanders by Sea and Land respectively, who are here-

*by required to use their utmost Care and Circumspection,
That this Ordinance be duly executed. And lastly, the
Lords and Commons doe declare, That every Officer and
Commander by Sea or Land, that shall be remisse or neg-
ligent in observing the Tenor of this Ordinance, shall be
reputed a Favourer of that bloody Rebellion of Ireland,
And shall be lyable to such condigne punishment, as the
Justice of both Houses of Parliaments shall inflict upon him.*

*Io. Browne Cleric.
Parliamentor.*

For the Earle of E s s e x Generall.

MY LORD,

I Received your Lordships Letter, of the fourth of this
Moneth, on the eleventh; and cannot but wonder that
it should seem strange to the two Houses, that I should
cause those Prisoners, which were taken in Armes a-
gainst His Majesty, to be used in the same manner, and
by the same measure, as His Majesties good Subjects,
taken Prisoners in the act of their duty, are used by those that
take them. Those Souldiers of mine that were barbarously mur-
dered in cold blood, after Quarter given to them at *Shrews-
bury*, were those, who, during the time they were in *Ireland*,
served His Majesty stoutly, constantly and faithfully against the
Rebels of that Kingdome, and after the Cessation, they were by
His Majesties Command transported to serve Him in this,
where they honestly performed the duty of Souldiers; and
therefore I were unworthy of the Command I hold under His
Majesty, if upon so high a provocation, and so unheard of an
act of injustice, as the putting those poore honest men to death,
I had not let the Authors of that Massacre know, that their
owne

owne men must pay the price of such acts of Inhumanity, and be used as they use their Brethren: and therefore I caused the like number (to whom Quarter was no other wise given, then to the former) to be put to death in the same manner as had been done at *Shrewsbury*. How the Rebellion in *Ireland* began, and with what circumstances of Bloud and cruelty it hath been carryed on, (the odioufnesse whereof, and of all other Rebellions is apparent, and all good men must abhorre,) is not applicable to this Argument, (I wish the temper of this Kingdome had been, or yet were such as might be applyed to the composure of that;) your Lordship hath in that Army many Souldiers, who served His Majesty in that Kingdome of *Ireland*, yet to those Souldiers when taken Prisoners, Quarter is given, and observed on this side, the like must be expected from you: And if it should be otherwise, and that Quarter should be denyed to all those who have been proclaimed Traytors and Rebels, or who by Act of Parliament are such, this Warre will be much more mercilesse and bloody then it hath been, or then any good man, or true Englishman can desire to see it; I am sure such rigour shall be prevented by all the Interest and Power I have. Neither can that threat & menace in your Lordship's Letter of the resolution to use such Prisoners as shall be taken of His Majesties Army for the future, make any other impression in me, then of griefe and sadnesse of heart, to see so much injustice and inhumanity, a proceeding contrary to the Lawes of Nature and Nations, contrary to the rules and customes of Warre in any part of the Christian World, so deliberately and solemnly resolved, declared, and published. If there should be an Ordinance made, that there should be no Quarter given to any Souldiers under my Command, and an expectation that those under yours should receive Quarter, would your Lordship expect I submit to such an Ordinance? This is the case. I have taken Prisoners of those, who have taken Armes against His Majesty, of all Nations, *English, Scotch, Irish, French, Dutch, Walloones*, of all Religions and opinions that are avowed by Christians, and have alwayes allowed them Quarter, and equall Exchange (how unequall soever the Quarrell and Contention is, and what

Judge.

Judgement soever the Law hath decreed upon such Persons, and shall doe so still, hoping that Almighty God will open the Eyes of those who have been tragically deceived into Crimes against, and to the scandall and destruction of the Protestant Religion; (in which all men know I have been borne) and for which they have reason enough to believe I will dye.) and the Parliament of *England*, Assembled by His Majesties Command, and of which His Majesty is the Head, and will not cover and reduce those, who out of ambition or malice have made those Parties, in which the other have trod to their Pity towards their Maker, and their Allegiance towards their Sovereigne: But if the contrary course shall be held, and any Prisoners, under my Command, shall be taken, executed, and murdered in cold blood, under what senselesse and unjust pretence soever, for every Officer and Souldier so causelessly and barbarously murdered, I will cause so many of the Prisoners remaining in my Power, to be put to death in the same manner; and I shall not bar the blood of those miserable men, who shall so suffer by my order, as well as of those who shall be butchered by their Ordinance your Lordship mentions, shall be required at their hands, who by their cruell examples impose an itching upon other men to observe the rules they lay downe. And I cannot but expresse a great sense to your Lordship, that since His Majesties gracious Offers and importunity for Peace will not be hearkned unto, by these prodigious resolutions, captale set in your Lordships Letter, the Warre is like to be so itaraged, that the *English* Nation is in danger of destroying one another, or (which is a kind of extirpation) of degenerating into such an animosity and enmity, that all elements of Charity, Compassion, and brotherly Affection, shall be extinguished. I hope they, whose opinions and resolutions your Lordship hath imparted to me, will take these animadversions into their serious consideration, from

April, the 15th,

1645.

Your Lordships Servant

R. UPEAT.